

Anti-aging and regenerative medicine: A medical specialty or An alternative medicine?

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Abstract:

Anti-aging and regenerative medicine is considered one of the applied sciences in biotechnology and advanced preventive medicine. It aims to detect risk factors of human age-related degeneration, to prevent from the risk factors, and to treat the degeneration or disorders that already occurred. This is the new branch of science studying and finding the way to prolong human healthy life span. Nowadays, anti-aging and regenerative medicine demonstrates their roles of treatment to many patients around the world, but in Thailand, there are some issues still yet to clarify, such as the suitability and safety of treatment, the overlying scope of work with the other medical specialties. This article will present the scope of works of 4 most similar medical specialties to anti-aging and regenerative medicine, including Dermatology, Plastic surgery, Rehabilitation medicine and Family medicine. Then, the article will show 4 disciplines of alternative medicine that have similar scope of works with anti-aging and regenerative medicine, including Thai traditional medicine, Chinese traditional medicine, Stem cell therapy and Aesthetic medicine. The purpose of this article is to inform the readers about the roles of anti-aging and regenerative medicine whether they are similar or different comparing with the other medical specialties. Therefore, we can consider that, “Should it be a new medical specialty or an alternative medicine?”

Key words: Anti-aging and regenerative medicine, Medical specialty, Alternative medicine